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Trends

ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, April 30, 1981 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended April 25 totaled an estimated 16.2 billion ton-miles, 8.6 percent below the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today. The sharp decline was primarily attributable to the impact of the United Mine Workers' strike.

Cumulative volume for the first 17 weeks of 1981 was an estimated 299.3 billion ton-miles, 0.9 percent lower than the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended April 25 totaled 384,783 cars, 15.4 percent below 1980, but 4.6 percent higher than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were down 30.2 percent in the East, 12.2 percent in the South and 5.6 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1980, 17 of the 21 commodity groups were down. Coal loadings were off 56,454 cars, or 48.1 percent. Seventeen of the 21 groups were up from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads during the week ended April 18 totaled 31,016 cars, down 5.0 percent from the corresponding week of 1980, and 57,294 trailers and/or containers, down 3.5 percent from last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 16 weeks of the year was 510,980 cars, 4.5 percent lower than last year, and 927,336 trailers and/or containers, down 4.5 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 4/25/81:

	Loadings in Week ended April 25, 1981		Change from Corresponding Week 1980			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	23,359	D	1,817	7.2	I	1,571	7.2
Other farm products	3,581	D	352	8.9	D	133	3.4
Metallic ores	32,815	D	802	2.4	I	2,438	8.0
Coal	60,973	D	56,454	48.1	I	421	0.7
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	15,082	I	278	1.9	I	1,089	7.8
Nonmetallic minerals	14,972	D	649	4.2	I	1,124	8.1
Grain mill products	13,589	D	2,668	16.4	D	121	0.1
Food and kindred products	16,019	D	1,206	7.0	I	1,055	7.1
Primary forest products	20,005	I	1,005	5.3	I	1,081	5.7
Lumber and wood products except furniture	9,405	I	1,161	14.1	I	201	2.2
Pulp, paper and allied products	20,205	D	574	2.8	I	814	4.2
Chemicals and allied products	28,537	D	1,248	4.2	I	1,057	3.9
Petroleum products	4,802	D	901	15.8	I	306	6.8
Stone, clay and glass products	14,885	D	1,099	6.9	I	812	5.8
Coke	6,208	D	63	1.0	I	553	9.8
Metals and products	18,176	D	246	1.3	I	1,800	11.0
Motor vehicles and equipment	18,986	I	782	4.3	I	1,901	11.1
Waste and scrap materials	13,128	D	934	6.6	I	586	4.7
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	10,080	D	1,087	9.7	D	111	1.1
All other carloads	39,786	D	2,995	7.0	I	506	1.3
LCL traffic	190	D	21	10.0	D	26	12.0
Total Cars Loaded	384,783	D	69,890	15.4	I	16,924	4.6
Corresponding week of 1980	454,673						

	1981	1980	% Change	
Total Cars Loaded (17 weeks)	7,149,889	7,509,052	D	4.8
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):				
16 Weeks cumulative	283.1	284.2	D	0.4
Week ended April 25	16.2	17.7	D	8.6
17 Weeks cumulative	299.3	301.9	D	0.9

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